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QUARTERLY ESTIMATE OF THE CONSTRUCTION
OF NAVAL SHIPS IN THE SINO-SOVIET BLOC
JULY-SEPTEMBER 1961



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Office of Research and Reports

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FOREWORD

This publication is the first of a series to be issued on a quarterly basis summarizing construction of naval ships in the Sino-Soviet Bloc. Information about all known active programs for construction of naval ships is included even though not all programs have resulted in ships being completed.

The publication was prepared to support internal CIA components and scheduled ORR economic research projects. No interagency coordination has been attempted, and no dissemination of this publication outside CIA is planned.

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QUARTERLY ESTIMATE OF THE CONSTRUCTION
OF NAVAL SHIPS IN THE SINO-SOVIET BLOC*
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I. Trends in Construction

In the years immediately following World War II, 10 shipyards in the USSR** were engaged in construction of naval ships. Ambitious construction programs were undertaken involving cruisers, destroyers, destroyer escorts, and submarines. Of all these types, the buildup of a submarine force apparently received the highest priority, with the result that a force of more than 400 submarines was attained by 1958. This force has since been maintained at least at that number. By 1961, only five shipyards were still building major naval ships. Four of the five yards, however, continue to be involved with construction of submarines, indicating that for the foreseeable future the submarine will be the backbone of the Soviet Navy, a policy that has been in effect for the past decade.

The USSR continued to build the conventional powered F-class and G-class submarines well into 1961 even though it has constructed several types of nuclear-powered submarines.

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There is no information to suggest that the USSR intends to change its policy against construction of aircraft carriers. Lacking an aircraft carrier force, the USSR will rely on land-based jet bomber aircraft equipped with air-to-surface missiles against enemy shipping.

* The estimates and conclusions in this publication represent the best judgment of this Office as of 1 October 1961.

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[REDACTED]

Since World War II, Communist China has constructed, with the help of the USSR, submarines and escort ships. Construction of naval ships in the European Satellites, however, has been confined to minor naval and amphibious types of ships.

II. Construction in the USSR

A. Major Surface Ships

1. Cruisers

There is no evidence of any current programs for construction of cruisers in the USSR.

2. Destroyers

The program for construction of Krupnyy-class guided-missile destroyers has continued into 1961. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It is estimated, however, that construction of this class will cease with the delivery of the ships currently

[REDACTED]

3. Destroyer Escorts

Destroyer escorts have not been constructed by the USSR since the [REDACTED] was terminated in 1958 after the completion of about 65 ships. It is expected that a successor to this program will follow shortly, although there is no good evidence of such plans.

B. Submarines

Until at least mid-1961 the USSR continued to construct the Fox Trot (F) class of submarines [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It is estimated, however, that both of these programs will have been terminated by late 1961 or early 1962.

[REDACTED]

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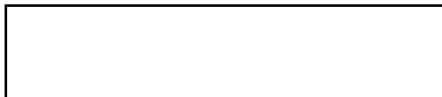
C. Minor Surface and Mine Warfare Ships

Soviet policy regarding construction of minor surface and mine warfare ships in the past apparently has been to maintain fleet strength. As a result, construction of these types has remained fairly constant. Older types of ships were phased out in 1956 and 1957, but construction of new and improved types was begun immediately. Four new types of patrol boats and two new types of mine-sweeping boats appeared during 1957-59.**

The most notable of the new types was a missile gunboat for launching short-range surface-to-surface missiles or large free rockets. This boat [redacted] is about 140 feet long and mounts four launchers.

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D. Auxiliary and Amphibious Ships

The level of known construction of auxiliary and amphibious ships in the USSR does not indicate great emphasis on this type. It is of significance, however, that the USSR now is engaged in constructing new ships for these services rather than in converting merchant ships as was done in the past.

Noteworthy among the new ships of this classification under construction is the Don class of submarine tender.* This ship, about 450 feet long and displacing about 9,500 long tons, probably is operated as a submarine squadron command ship as well as a submarine tender.

III. Construction in Communist China

Since World War II, Communist China has constructed submarines and escort ships with the help of the USSR. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] China continues construction of patrol types of ships.

IV. Construction in the European Satellites**

Construction of naval ships in the European Satellites is confined to minor naval and amphibious type ships.

Poland is building minesweeping ships, [REDACTED] and coastal patrol ships. Construction of naval ships in East Germany is confined to coastal patrol ships and amphibious landing craft.

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Construction in the other European Satellites is negligible and is limited to harbor and river patrol ships.

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[REDACTED]
** The total construction of naval ships in the European Satellites is not significant and therefore has not been tabulated.

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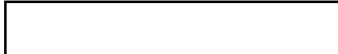
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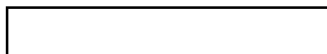
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